Linking of Godavari and Krishna Waters

*348. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Godavari and Krishna Waters to provide drinking water facility to hundreds of villages besides irrigating thousands of acres of land in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing the project pending for long; and

(c) by when the project would be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission had in 1980 formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages interlinkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalyan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. Under Peninsular component of National Perspective Plan linking of river Godavari with Krishna is envisaged through three separate links for providing irrigation benefits and enhanced drinking water supply to the water short area. National Water Development Agency (NWDA), established to carry out studies, surveys and investigations of National Perspective Plan, has prepared feasibility report for one of these links. Work on the feasibility reports for the remaining two links is in progress. Clearance of the project for interlinking shall arise only when the Detailed Project Reports are prepared and submitted after the consensus is reached among the concerned States.

Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

*350. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far to upgrade Amritsar Airport to International standards;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The proposal to upgrade Amritsar airport to international standards was considered in the meeting of the Public Investment Board (PIB) in its meeting held on 18-8-1999. PIB recommended that though the project cannot be justified on grounds of economic viability. However, keeping in view the need of infrastructure development and to exploit the export potential of Punjab, the proposal is being placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). PIB also directed Airports Authority of India to conduct international passengers and cargo traffic survey which has been now conducted by AAI. A revised proposal to upgrade Amritsar airport to international standards has been approved by AAI Board and will put up to the PIB.

New Guidlines for Helicopter Operations

*351. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Aviation Policy will introduce new guidlines for helicopter operations without mixing them up with fixed wing operations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will enable them to operate more freely exploiting the advantages inherent in its operations and at the same time maintain high safety standards; and

(c) if so, by when this rationalisation is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Civil Aviation Policy under formulation envisages a fresh look at the policy framework for helicopter operations, and issue of suitable guidlines in this regard. The draft policy has been widely circulated for views/comments before finalisation.

Strengthening of security at Air-ports

*352. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA :

SHRI AMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report on airport security has revealed that the Authority has not taken any serious steps to tighten the security on a number of Airports even after the highjacking of IAC Flight No. 814; and

(b) if so, the names of such Airports which are lacking security arrangements and by when remedial steps are proposed to be taken ?